



HOUMA-THIBODAUX METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION/SOUTH CENTRAL  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
**PATH FORWARD 2019 UPDATE**

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## **Addendum: Update to HTMPO/SCPDC Path Forward- August 2018**

The initial Path Forward Plan for the HTMPO/SCPDC was submitted to EPA in August 2013, and updated in March 2015 and August 2018.

### **Public Outreach and Education:**

The majority of the activity since the last HTMPO/SCPDC Path Forward Plan Update has been in the development of Ridesharing promotional and educational tools. These tools feature the positive environmental impacts of ride sharing including reduced automobile emissions. SCPDC is also developing a Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Plan. This plan will also address the positive impacts alternative modes of transportation have on community health, including Air Quality.

### **UPWP Initiatives:**

The Houma-Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization prepared and approved a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for 2016-17 FY, 2017-18 FY, 2018-19 FY and 2019-20 FY. Included in the work document regarding Air Quality activities were:

- The SCPDC Region is currently meeting ozone attainment readings.
- Ozone attainment will continue to be monitored.
- In April of 2013 the HTMPO was granted admittance to the EPA Ozone Advance Program.
- Path Forward document was submitted to EPA in August 2013 and updates have been submitted periodically.
- The MPO will participate in any regional air quality coalition or similar types of Environmental Organizations focused on improving the region's air quality.

### **MTMPO Meetings:**

- **10/27/16**-MPO Policy Committee meeting staff announced the creation of the Regional Air Quality Coalition and requested volunteers. They indicated that quarterly meetings would be held to develop specific, measurable, assignable, realistic and timely (SMART) goals to improve air quality in the SCPDC Region.
- **11/10/16**-The first SCPDC Regional Air Quality meeting was held and participation was low. Due to our region being in attainment it's difficult to find interested elected officials and staff.
- **1/26/17**-Staff announced at the MPO Policy committee that they had attended the Louisiana Clean Fuel meeting and shared information with the Regional Air Quality Coalition. Staff also provided informational handouts to the committee from the Solar Industry Trade Association.

- **4/27/17**-Staff reported to the MPO Policy committee that EPA had slowed its efforts with Air Quality and Water Quality due to the new Federal Administration and a change in direction.
- **10/26/18**-At the MPO Policy committee meeting staff announced they had attended an Alternate Fuel Corridor meeting in Baton Rouge, LA, and that DEQ was looking for stakeholders.
- **1/25/18**-Staff indicated they had attended the State Clean Air Stakeholders meeting in Baton Rouge, LA, to the MPO Policy Committee and answered any questions from the committee.
- **4/26/18**-At the MPO Policy Committee meeting staff announced that it was Air Quality Awareness Week and also handed out local and state events for air quality initiatives.
- SCPDC staff are working to promote ridesharing in the region, in particular the following efforts were made.
  - **4/9/18**- Presentation on ridesharing/carpooling to Nicholls State University Student Government Association.
  - **1/29/18-5/17/18-7/12/18**- Meetings with Nicholls administration to design and implement information that will be distributed to students and faculty on how to set up a carpool. The project involves development of information for the Nicholls and SCPDC websites including carpool safety tips and guides and links to regional transportation services. Project development is ongoing.
  - **8/17/18**- Made available Good Earth/City of Thibodaux public transit schedules to residential students on Move-In Day, August 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - **8/17/18**- Presentation to Regional Businesses Services Team regarding ridesharing and commuter tax incentive programs. Prepared a one-page flyer that will be distributed to other business and industry associations on the Commuter Tax Incentive program.
  - **4/19** - Uploaded Ridesharing information to the SCPDC website.
  - **5/19** – conducted Ridesharing outreach at Nicholls State University and to the Regional Business Services Team.
  - **6/19** – Conducted Ridesharing outreach at Terrebonne Chamber Meeting and Lafourche Community Resources Fair.
  - **1/2020** – Participated in online Skype meeting on how to set up vanpool programs.

**In 2020**, SCPDC will continue working with its Regional Transit Committee to promote bus services and ridesharing. SCPDC is applying for additional funds to continue Ridesharing promotional activities into the year 2020.